

Governors State University OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia

Center for Performing Arts

2-4-2000

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

Center for Performing Arts

Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/cpa_memorabilia

Recommended Citation

Center for Performing Arts, "Preservation Hall Jazz Band" (2000). *Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia*. Book 159.
http://opus.govst.edu/cpa_memorabilia/159

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Performing Arts at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.



THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Governors State University

Presents

Preservation Hall Jazz Band



February 4, 2000

1999-2000 Season sponsored in part by:



PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

Musical fashion has known radical changes in the past few decades, but the song remains the same for the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Since the group was formed, it has championed the jubilant sound of seminal New Orleans jazz, which is approaching it's centennial as a genre. Its predictability is a source of comfort and a reminder of the timelessness of certain musical expressions.

In the early 1960's, Preservation Hall began as a place that gave musicians who were not working a place to stay. There were hundreds of musicians around who had either retired or were forced to get other kinds of work, because there were no venues for them to perform in. Also, rock'n'roll had become popular and people like Fats Domino were more popular.

Preservation Hall was really about preserving the musicians, more than the music, per se. Even today, their goal is not to preserve New Orleans and try to reproduce something that existed a hundred years ago. They are simply performing something that they grow up with, that they heard and that their relatives played.

You can't escape from the sense of history in the making, and in the margins, with this group. That sense of historical range is woven into the New Orleans music scene as well.

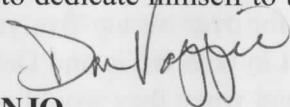


BIOGRAPHIES

WENDELL BRUNIOUS – TRUMPET

Wendell Brunious is a “youngster” who exemplifies the Preservation Hall Jazz Band tradition of “preserving” New Orleans jazz. He was born into one of the most musical families in New Orleans. His father, John Sr., played trumpet and wrote for Billy Eckstein and Cab Calloway. Uncle’s Willie Lester and Burnell Santiago are two of the most respected names in New Orleans jazz today.

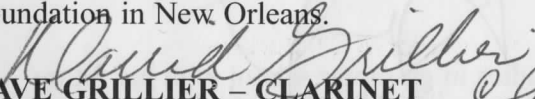
Wendell began performing at the Hall in the 1970’s when he played next to the legendary trumpeter Kid Thomas Valentine for close to seven years. An extremely versatile and popular musician among his peers, Wendell has chosen to dedicate himself to the New Orleans style.



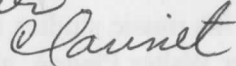
NARVIN HENRY KIMBALL – BANJO

Born March 2, 1909, Narvin comes from a musical family. His father was a well-known bass player who worked for many years with Fate Marable on the S.S. Capitol. Narvin’s first instrument was a guitar he made from a cigar box. He soon bought a ukulele, and in 1924 his father gave him a banjo which he played with his high school band. Narvin studied banjo and music with Willie Foster for several years. He also rehearsed with Paul Moliere’s family band.

Narvin discontinued playing his music during the depression, however, rejoined Desvigne’s Orchestra in 1940. In 1945 Narvin performed on bass with Louis Armstrong at the National Jazz Foundation in New Orleans.



DAVE GRILLIER – CLARINET



David is a true musical veteran. He started playing the clarinet when he was 10 and continued to perform on this instrument through high school. David joined the highly regarded Air Force

Band and was stationed in Europe for three years. When he returned to New Orleans in 1957, he immediately began working with the top rhythm and blues bands such as legends Smiley Lewis and Bobby Mitchell. In 1976, David joined Harold Degan's Olympia Brass Band and though them began performing at Preservation Hall. David now performs regularly at Preservation Hall on Wednesday and Saturday.



FRANK DEMOND – TROMBONE

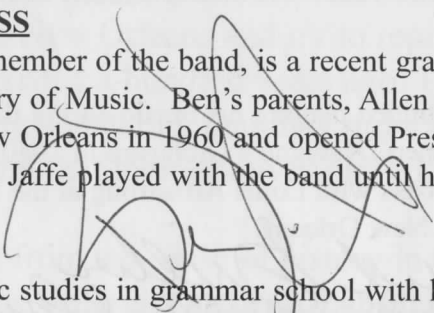
Born April 3, 1933 in Los Angeles, CA, Frank became interested in New Orleans jazz in the 1940's when he heard the Kid Ory band in Los Angeles. His first instrument was the ukulele, buy he soon taught himself banjo and trombone.

Frank met Jim Robinson during the late 1940's and they were friends for over twenty-five years. Also at this time, Frank would often sit in with Billie and DeDe Pierce and their Preservation Hall Jazz Band when they would perform in Stamford.

Frank went to New Orleans and moved there permanently in 1974 to play regularly at Preservation Hall. Frank can be heard on all of the Preservation Hall recordings and his mentor, Jim Robinson, can be heard on "Sweet Emma and Her Preservation Hall Jazz Band".

BEN JAFFE – BASS

Ben, the youngest member of the band, is a recent graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Ben's parents, Allen and Sandra Jaffe, moved to New Orleans in 1960 and opened Preservation Hall in 1961. Allen Jaffe played with the band until his untimely death in 1987.



Ben began his music studies in grammar school with his future bass teacher Walter Payton, also a musician at Preservation Hall. Besides performing with the band and managing Preservation Hall with his mother, Ben also teaches at The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, which is an arts magnet high school.

JOE LASTIE – DRUMS

The Lastie family is one of New Orleans largest and most famous musical families. Both of Joe's grandfathers played drums, his mother plays piano and his Uncles Melvin, David and Walter played trumpet, saxophone and drums respectively.

Joe began performing at age 8 to local gospel groups and for church services. In the early 1960's, Joe's family moved to New York where he joined the pit orchestra for the New Orleans musical "One Mo' Time". This job led to other musical opportunities and his eventual return to New Orleans. He joined Preservation Hall in 1989 and he has been a regular member ever since.

RICKIE MONIE – PIANO

Rickie, an accomplished pianist and clarinetist, has been performing at Preservation Hall since 1982 when he first substituted for Sweet Emma Barrett. Rickie's first musical experience took place in local churches where he accompanied New Orleans' finest choirs on piano.

After graduation from Dillard University, he joined Dejan's Olympia Brass Band and performed with them regularly on clarinet and piano. Today, Rickie can be heard at several churches in the New Orleans area as well as the Preservation Hall.